

ABSTRACT

Abtides are provided. Abtides are peptides identified by a two-step process of screening random peptide libraries. In the first step, the target ligand is an antibody or receptor (or derivative thereof). The peptides identified in the first screening step are used as target ligands in the second screening step. The peptides identified in the second screening step are abtides. Abtides possess binding specificities that are similar to the binding specificities of the antibodies or receptors that are used in the first screening step. Abtides may be used in place of antibodies in many assays or therapeutic applications.

Abtides binding to polymorphic epithelial mucin (PEM) are provided.

Also provided are methods of obtaining abtides as well as diagnostic and therapeutic compounds containing abtides.